

## Message Text

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12

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 AID-05

/064 W

----- 115601

R 121436Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8516

INFO /AMCONSUL ASMARA 7181

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 3130

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT ET

SUBJECT: IS FOREIGN MINISTER ON THE SKIDS?

1. EMBASSY CURRENTLY HEARING NEW SPATE OF RUMORS THAT FONMIN KIFLE WODAJO IS ABOUT TO BE REPLACED. WE LACK ANY COLLATERAL TO SUPPORT THESE RUMORS BUT FEEL COMPELLED TO BRING THEM TO THE DEPT'S ATTENTION. ADDRESSEES WILL RECALL THAT THIS RUMOR WAS WIDELY REPEATED A FEW MONTHS EARLIER. ONE SOURCE CONTENDS THAT KIFLE WAS SCHEDULED TO TRAVEL TO PEKING WITH ECONOMIC DELEGATION CURRENTLY VISITING PRC BUT WAS YANKED OFF THE AIRPLANE IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO ITS DEPARTURE AND TOLD THAT HE MUST BE HERE WHEN HIS REPLACEMENT WAS NAMED. SPECULATION AS TO HIS REPLACEMENT CURRENTLY CENTERS ON DR. FITIGEW TADESSE, ETHIOPIAN CONGEN WITH RANK OF AMB TO TFAI, AND AN UNNAMED DEPARTMENT HEAD IN MOFA WHO HAS RECENTLY RETURNED FROM USSR. OTHERS ALSO BEING MENTIONED INCLUDE ETHIOPIAN AMB TO KENYA MENGHISTU DESTA.

2. COMMENT: IN VIEW OF RECENT OUSTER OF SEVEN CABINET

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MINISTERS, IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT SPECULATION AS TO NEW MINISTERIAL

RESHUFFLES CONTINUES. INCREASINGLY LEFTISH TONE OF EPMG MEDIA  
WOULD ALSO FUEL SPECULATION THAT MINISTERS MOST SENSITIVELY  
INVOLVED WITH ETHIOPIA'S U.S. TIE MUST BE ON WAY OUT. IT IS  
INTERESTING, HOWEVER, THAT WE HAVE NOT AGAIN HEARD MAJOR SISAY  
HABTE, DIRG FOREIGN AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, MENTIONED AS  
KIFLE'S REPLACEMENT, AS WAS COMMON PREVIOUSLY. ONE RUMOR WHICH  
WE ARE NOT RPT NOT INCLINED TO CREDIT IS THAT DR. ESHETU CHOLE  
WILL BE NAMED FONMIN. SPECULATION ABOUT REPLACEMENT OF DEFENSE  
MINISTER AYALEW MANDEFRO IS ALSO BEING BANDIED ABOUT  
BUT LESS INTENSIVELY. IN ANY CASE, RUMORS OF THIS TYPE SEEM  
LIKELY TO IMPINGE ADVERSELY ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THOSE MINISTERS  
WHO ARE WIDELY PERCEIVED AS ON THE WAY OUT.

HUMMEL

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MINISTERS (DIPLOMATs), PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS, ALLEGATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 12 MAR 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** greeneet  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976ADDIS03130  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Film Number:** D760095-0571  
**From:** ADDIS ABABA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760369/aaaacieu.tel  
**Line Count:** 75  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
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**Review Authority:** greeneet  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 14 MAY 2004  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** IS FOREIGN MINISTER ON THE SKIDS?  
**TAGS:** PINT, ET, (WODAJO, KIFLE)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006